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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUE990351

For a certificate of public
convenience and necessity
authorizing the construction
of transmission facilities
in Fauquier County

FINAL ORDER

On August 11, 1998, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Virginia Power" or "Company") filed an application requesting regulatory approval for the construction of new gas-fired turbine generator units ("CTs"). Initially, the Company sought to install the units either at a site in Caroline County or a site in Fauquier County. The Company subsequently amended its application to seek authority to construct four 150 MW CTs at its Fauquier County site. The Company also requested regulatory approval for construction of transmission facilities necessary to connect these generators to the electric transmission grid.

In an order issued on May 14, 1999, in Case No. PUE980462, the Commission authorized Virginia Power to construct the four combustion turbine generating units at its location in Fauquier County, Virginia; authorized Virginia Power to make financial

expenditures for such construction; directed the Company to account separately for the fixed costs of the units; and dismissed the case from its docket of active cases. The related transmission facilities request was not approved in that proceeding, and the Commission subsequently determined that it should be considered in this docket.¹

Virginia Power proposes to build a new double-circuit 230 kV line of approximately 2000 feet from the combustion turbine site to the existing Remington substation. This new line would be entirely on the right-of-way of the existing 115 kV Remington-Possum Point line. Virginia Power also proposes to build a double-circuit 230 kV line of approximately 2,500 feet in length on Company property. The proposed line will connect the combustion turbine site with the existing 230 kV line between the Remington Substation and Warrenton. That existing line will be cut and the new lines will be connected to create a new single circuit 230 kV line from the Remington Substation to the combustion turbine site and a new single circuit 230 kV line from the combustion turbine site to Warrenton. The new 230 kV circuit from the CT site to Remington would be operated at 115 kV to create a single circuit 115 kV from Possum Point to the Remington Substation.

¹ June 14, 1998, Order for Notice and Hearing.

By order dated June 14, 1999, the Commission directed the Company to provide notice of its application, scheduled the matter for hearing on September 23, 1999, and established a procedural schedule for the filing of pleadings, testimony, and exhibits.

At the appointed date, a hearing was held before Chief Hearing Examiner Deborah V. Ellenberg. Counsel appearing were Guy T. Tripp, III, Esquire, for the Company and Marta Curtis, Esquire, and Don Mueller, Esquire, for the Commission's Staff.

No public witnesses appeared at the hearing. There were no Protestants participating in the proceeding, and there were no issues in controversy between the Company and Staff.

At the commencement of the hearing, the Company offered the required proofs of notice. Testimony supporting the application was marked and received into the record. A Staff Report dated September 1, 1999, was also received and admitted into the record.

At that hearing the Chief Hearing Examiner gave a Report detailing her findings and recommendations. The Examiner found that:

1. There is a need for the 230 kV Remington transmission lines to connect the four 150 megawatt CTs in Fauquier County to the Company's transmission system as outlined in the October 21st, 1998, supplemental application and the May 27th, 1999, additional supplemental testimony;

2. The public convenience and necessity require construction of the proposed transmission facilities;

3. The Company and Staff considered alternatives to satisfy the need, but the proposed facilities are the best technical and economical option available;

4. The proposed route uses existing right-of-way to the maximum extent reasonably possible and is located completely on the Company's property or existing right-of-way, and thus reasonably minimizes any adverse impact on the scenic and environmental assets of the concerned area.

The Examiner recommended that the Commission enter an order that adopts her findings; grants the Company's application to construct and operate the proposed transmission lines pursuant to §§ 56-46.1, 56-265.2, and related provisions of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia; and amends the Company's current certificate of public convenience and necessity for Fauquier County to authorize the construction and operation of the proposed facilities. The Examiner also recommended that upon issuance of the amended certificate the Commission dismiss this case from its docket of active cases.

The Company supported the Examiner's recommendations and waived its right to file further comments in this proceeding.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered the Examiner's Report, applicable law, and the record of this proceeding, is of

the opinion that the Examiner's findings and recommendations should be adopted. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The findings and recommendations of the Chief Hearing Examiner as detailed herein are adopted.

(2) Pursuant to § 56-46.1, § 56-265.2, and related provisions of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia, this application shall be granted.

(3) Virginia Power shall be issued an amended certificate of public convenience and necessity for Fauquier County as follows:

Certificate No. ET-80k for Fauquier County authorizing Virginia Electric and Power Company to construct and operate a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from its combustion turbine site to the existing Remington substation on the right-of-way of the existing 115 kV Remington-Possum Point line and to construct and operate a double-circuit 230 kV transmission line to connect its combustion turbine site with the existing 230 kV line between the Remington substation and Warrenton, as shown on the map attached hereto. Certificate No. ET-80k shall supersede Certificate No. ET-80j issued on June 23, 1978.

(4) This case shall be dismissed from the Commission's docket of active cases.